

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
711 South Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 300
Tampa, Florida 33609 – 4400
(352) 464-4470

Program Contact:

Darlene Carlson, darlenec@bbbstampabay.org

Award Amount:

\$75,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

Target Geography:

Sumter County, Florida

Program Summary:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay's (BBBSTB) will recruit 75 RSVP volunteers to provide economically disadvantaged children with strong and enduring one-to-one relationships with caring, trained and professionally-supported older adults that change their lives for the better. RSVP volunteers in this grant will focus on education and engage in one-to-one mentoring in either a community or school-based setting. Volunteers will make a commitment of at least one year, though most matches last longer. School-based volunteers will serve at one of the two schools already engaged in Sumter County, Florida, while BBBSTB will serve as the location for the community-based mentors. At the end of this three-year grant, a minimum of seventy-five children will have been served in school and community-based mentoring, with the outcome of improved academic engagement.